

REMARKS

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-3, and 5-42 are pending. Claim 4 is cancelled. Claims 1, 5, 6, and 42 are amended. No new matter is presented in the amendment.

Claims 4-9, and 17 are objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. Claims 26-41 are allowed.

Issues Raised in the Outstanding Office Action

The outstanding Office Action raises three issues, discussed in turn, below:

(1) *Claim Objections*

Claims 4-6 were objected to. While this objection is traversed, it is moot in view of the above amendment.

Thus, reconsideration and withdrawal thereof are requested.

(2) *Issues under 35 U.S.C. § 103*

Claims 1-3, 10-16, 18, and 22-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being obvious over WO 02/074217 in view of WO 99/15128. This rejection is respectfully traversed. However, in view of the above amendment, this rejection is believed to be moot. Specifically, material from previously pending claim 4, and claim 5, both free from this rejection, has been incorporated into claim 1. Thus, claim 1 (and the claims dependent therefrom) should be free

from this rejection as well. Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 19-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as allegedly being obvious over WO 02/074217 in view of WO 99/15128, and further in view of Langley, US '697. This rejection is respectfully traversed. Reconsideration and withdrawal thereof are respectfully requested. Claims 19-21 are dependent from claim 1. Claim 1 is free from this rejection and should be allowable as discussed above. Thus, claim 19-21 should be allowable.

From the foregoing, Applicant's respectfully submit that allowance of the application is proper, and such action is earnestly solicited.

Finally, please contact the undersigned if there are any questions regarding this Amendment or the application in general.

Additionally, as previously offered, should the Examiner believe that an interview will remove issues precluding allowance, Applicants representative will be happy to arrange one at the convenience of the Examiner.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Myers, Jr.', with a stylized flourish at the end.

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